

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: PRESIDENCY OF COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

REFEFE'CE: MEXICO'S 3780

FOR AMBASSADOR JOVA FROM VANCE

1. WE ARE PLEASED THAT OJEDA PAULLADA, AFTER YOUR MOST RECENT CONVERSATION WITH HIM (REFTEL), IS NOW TAKING A SOMEWHAT MORE REALISTIC VIEW OF MEXICO'S CHANCES OF OBTAINING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS. IN PARTICULAR, IT IS HELPFUL THAT HE APPEARS TO RECOGNIZE THE PRESIDENCY IS AD PERSONUM AND THAT CASTRO Y CASTRO COULD NOT HAND IT OVER TO HIM AS A HIGHER RANKING OFFICIAL. THERE WOULD, HOWEVER, OBVIOUSLY BE NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PROBLEM FOR OJEDA TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO THE COMMISSION DURING A SHORT VISIT.

2. HAD CASTROY Y CASTRO BEEN PRESENT AT THE LAST MEETING,

HE WOULD HAVE BEEN MOVED FROM HIS PREVIOUS POSITION OF SECOND VICE PRESIDENT TO THE PRESIDENCY DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE HUNGARIAN FORMER FIRST VICE PRESIDENT WAS ALSO ILL AND COULD NOT ATTEND. IN VIEW OF THE ABSENCE OF BOTH OF THESE PERSONS, THE COMMISSION WAS OBLIGED TO MAKE

THE FORMER RAPPORTEUR THE PRESIDENT AND TO FILL THE VACANCIES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND VICE PRESIDENTS AND THE RAPPORTEUR (SOVIET UNION, SWEDEN, AND CANADA, RESPECTFULLY).

3. ACCORDING TO THE RULES, THESE GENTLEMAN WILL BE MOVED UP ONE RANK IF THEY PERSONALLY REAPPEAR AT THE NEXT MEETING, THUS LEAVING VACANT ONLY THE POSITION OF RAPPORTEUR. WE BELIEVE THERE IS SOME SMALL POSSIBILITY THAT MEXICO COULD GAIN THE PRESIDENCY IF MEXICO WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE THE SOVIET UNION TO SUPPORT A MEXICAN PROPOSAL TO DELAY THIS USUAL MASS PROMOTION FOR ONE YEAR IN ORDER TO GIVE THE MEXICAN DELEGATE THE PRESIDENCY, OF WHICH THEY WERE DEPRIVED BY FORCE MAJEURE. THE CHANCES OF THIS BEING ACCEPTED BY THE CND WOULD BE ENHANCED IF THE MEXICAN DELEGATE WERE THE PERSON WHO HAD INDIVIDUALLY BEEN ELECTED EARLIER, I.E., CASTRO Y CASTRO.

4. OUR POSITION IS NOT ONE OF BEING MORE CATHOLIC THAN THE POPE, AS WE HAVE ENDEAVORED TO EXPLAIN EARLIER. THE USDEL LAST YEAR ENDEAVORED TO HAVE CASTRO Y CASTRO'S REPLACEMENT ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY IN CASTRO Y CASTRO'S PLACE. THIS WAS REJECTED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE. USDEL THEN ENDEAVORED TO GET HIM AT LEAST ELECTED TO ONE OF THE POSITIONS IN THE BUREAU. THIS WAS ALSO REJECTED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS ACTION AND THE FACT THAT THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION HAD ALSO BEEN DEPRIVED OF ITS PLACE DUE TO FORCE MAJEURE, THE USDEL THEN, IN NOMINATING SPEECHES ON THE FLOOR, EXPRESSED REGRET AT CASTRO Y CASTRO'S ABSENCE AND THE PERSONAL INTENTION TO ENDEAVOR TO SEE HIM RE-ELECTED

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TO THE BUREAU IF HE COULD RETURN NEXT YEAR. USDEL WAS SUPPORTED IN THIS ACTION BY THE FRENCH DELEGATE, BUT NO OTHERS. USDEL'S FAVORABLE VIEW OF THE MEXICAN HOPES WAS WELL KNOWN TO OTHER DELEGATIONS, BUT MANY OF THEM INFORMALLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WERE NOT SYMPATHETIC. NONE BUT THE FRENCH WAS SYMPATHETIC.

5. BASICALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO GET OUT OF A POSITION OF INTERPRETING THE COMMISSION VIEWS FOR OJEDA OR, WORSE, BEING REGARDED AS OPPOSING OUR MEXICAN COLLEAGUES. AS IS WELL KNOWN IN THE BUREAU OF CND, THE USDEL TRIED IN THE BUREAU WITH NO SUCCESS TO HAVE THE MEXICANS GIVEN THE

PRESIDENCY. IF MEXICANS NOW BELIEVE THEY CAN TALK TO OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU AND HAVE MORE SUCCESS, GO AHEAD. WE
DO NOT OPPOSE THEM BUT IN THE INTEREST OF OUR RELATIONS
WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CND WE CANNOT AT THIS STAGE
BE SAID TO SUPPORT THEM. KISSINGER

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